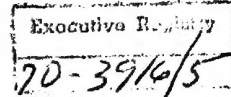


SECRET



7 DEC 1970

Admiral George W. Anderson, USN (Ret.)
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Room 300
Executive Office Building

Dear George:

We are making some adjustments in the COINS network which are reflected in the attached papers. As you know, Dr. Bill Baker has had an active interest in the COINS experiment since its inception and if he should desire further information, I would be glad to have someone see him at his convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Attachments:

Memo from D/DCI/NIPE to DCI
Letter from DCI to D/NSA

NIPE:RTaylor:eh (25 Nov 70)

Distribution:

- 1 - addressee w/atts
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Dir
- 1 - PPB [redacted] 1.30
- ① - NIPE:RT
- 1 - NIPE:RT chrono
- 1 - ER

25 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CIA Participation in COINS

1. The Executive Director has informed me of the proposed CIA decision to adjust the level of CIA participation in COINS and has furnished to me the information which formed the basis for this decision. I have examined this proposal carefully from a community point of view and on the basis of this examination recommend that you sign the attached letter to Admiral Gayler. The reasons for this recommendation follow.
2. As you know, the COINS Experiment project has been under way since September 1965 following a recommendation from the PFIAB. The first communications link between computers at NSA and DIA was installed and successfully tested in February, 1967 and CIA and NPIC joined the network some eighteen months later. Development work continued on the technical aspects of COINS and in April 1968 the Director, National Security Agency became the Executive Agent for COINS and took over responsibility for the experiment under general guidance from USIB and with participation of the member agencies. This work continues today.
3. While it was evident by April, 1969, that COINS was technically feasible there was very limited agreement among the agencies involved in the experiment as to what substantive intelligence material required handling by an on-line system such as COINS. The question of the possible uses for COINS has been present from the beginning. The PFIAB in their original recommendation had named biographics as probably requiring community-wide on-line access. After extensive and exhaustive study by a USIB committee and by the COINS working group, it was determined that biographics was not a suitable COINS file. In order to allow the technical development of COINS to proceed a number of files

were nominated for COINS use with no other qualification than that they were already in machine form and could be used for the technical development of the experiment without much trouble or cost. A few files--two or three--were found to be of some use between NSA and DIA. Very recently a CIA index file has found some community interest. Otherwise, only very limited requirements for substantive intelligence information to be handled by COINS on a community-wide basis have been developed.

25X1
25X1
4. During this period CIA has participated in the COINS experiment while at the same time proceeding with the development of systems to satisfy their own internal requirements. Studies continued both within the Agency and in the NSA directed COINS Management Group in an attempt to develop a CIA requirement for an on-line COINS type system. Much processed information is required, of course, from other members of the intelligence community. For instance, there is information contained in a number of [redacted] files from DIA, SAC, USAREUR, etc. which is desired by CIA analysts. Information contained in the DIA maintained [redacted] is also required, and there are other examples. CIA does not, however, require this information on an immediate or urgent basis, nor is the information always useable in the form in which it is maintained for other, non-CIA, purposes. On the other hand, DoD agencies do have such a requirement and a COINS-type system should satisfy their need for rapid access to certain intelligence files. Also, NPIC files are of broad community interest and should be made more readily available.

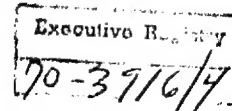
25X1
25X1
5. There is a limited CIA requirement to maintain some capability to work with the COINS network, e.g., the USIB approved IGCP requirement for NSA to maintain [redacted] on an on-line basis. There probably will be other requirements in the future. The CIA proposal to retain a capability to have access to COINS files is therefore supported. Also, the work of the IHC in improving all aspects of the exchange of information will be closely monitored by this office.

[redacted]
JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

Attachs:

1. Letter to Adm. Gayler
2. Letter to Adm. Anderson

SECRET



7 DEC 1970

Vice Admiral Noel Gayler, USN
Director, National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Dear Noel:

In my letter to you of 5 August 1970 on the subject of CIA participation in COINS, I mentioned that a concerted effort would be made to establish an appropriate course for CIA to follow in the future. An extensive re-examination has been completed.

As a result of this latest study, and taking into account also other recent in-depth COINS studies, it was concluded that there is neither a sufficient current nor near-term CIA requirement, nor unique experimental expectation from the present level of participation in a network of computers, to justify the manpower and machine costs involved. I, therefore, have directed that the level of CIA participation in COINS be brought into closer balance with current and future needs.

I understand and support the need for DoD components to exchange and assess certain data rapidly in a COINS-like system. CIA has benefited from DoD file building in this area, but its needs are satisfied largely by telephone or by getting published and magnetic tape copies of the DoD product.

CIA will retain a capability to access COINS files located externally by maintaining a line, or lines, directly to the network, as the State Department and NIC do now. Copies of desired CIA machine files will be provided to the system and will be maintained according to agreed upon schedules. Also, I expect resolution by the

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Community of the problems which have been preventing the full participation of NPIC in the COINS network. NPIC's central role in providing a national intelligence data base has already been decided; I feel that it would be desirable to make that data base more readily available to Community users through a computer-supported remote query system.

Since a COINS-like capability is but one of several ways of exchanging information, I have directed that the Information Handling Committee intensify its efforts toward the development and improvement of the Community Information Handling System. Your representatives on the various IHC committees and subcommittees have been very helpful and are supporting fully the work now going on. I appreciate also the valuable contribution which your development of COINS has made to Community knowledge in information handling.

Sincerely,

~~Es~~ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

25X1 NIPE [redacted] eh(25 Nov 70)

Distribution:

- 1 - addressee
- 1 - C/PFIAB
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Dir

25X1 1 - PPB [redacted]

- (1) NIPE:RT
- 1 - NIPE:RT chrono
- 1 - ER

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Executive Registry

70-3916/5

7 DEC 1970

Admiral George W. Anderson, USN (Ret.)
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Room 300
Executive Office Building

Dear George:

We are making some adjustments in the COINS network which are reflected in the attached papers. As you know, Dr. Bill Baker has had an active interest in the COINS experiment since its inception and if he should desire further information, I would be glad to have someone see him at his convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Attachments:

Memo from D/DCI/NIPE to DCI
Letter from DCI to D/NSA

NIPE: [] eh (25 Nov 70)

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- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Dir

1 - PPB []

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1 - NIPE:RT chrono

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70-39164

Noel 70

Vice Admiral Noel Gayler, USN
Director, National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Dear Noel:

In my letter to you of 5 August 1970 on the subject of CIA participation in COINS, I mentioned that a concerted effort would be made to establish an appropriate course for CIA to follow in the future. An extensive re-examination has been completed.

As a result of this latest study, and taking into account also other recent in-depth COINS studies, it was concluded that there is neither a sufficient current nor near-term CIA requirement, nor unique experimental expectation from the present level of participation in a network of computers, to justify the manpower and machine costs involved. I, therefore, have directed that the level of CIA participation in COINS be brought into closer balance with current and future needs.

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Sincerely,

/s/

Richard Helms
Director

NIPE [redacted] eh(25 Nov 70)

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- 1 - addressee
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- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Dir
- 1 - PPB [redacted]
- 1 - NIPE:RT
- 1 - NIPE:RT chrono
- 1 - ER

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ER 70-39145

Nov 70

Admiral George W. Anderson, USN (Ret.)
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Room 300
Executive Office Building

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Sincerely,

B1

Richard Helms

Attachments:

Memo from D/DCI/NIPE to DCI

Letter from DCI to D/NSA

NIPE: [] h(25 Nov 70)

Distribution:

- 1 - addressee w/atts
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Dir

1 - PPB []

- 1 - NIPE:RT
- 1 - NIPE:RT chrono
- 1 - ER

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Executive Registry

70-3916/6

25 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CIA Participation in COINS

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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5. There is a limited CIA requirement to maintain some capability to work with the COINS network, e.g., the USIB approved IGCP requirement for NSA to maintain [redacted] on an on-line basis. There probably will be other requirements in the future. The CIA proposal to retain a capability to have access to COINS files is therefore supported. Also, the work of the IHC in improving all aspects of the exchange of information will be closely monitored by this office.

[redacted]

D/DCI/NIPE

Attachs:

1. Letter to Adm. Gayler
2. Letter to Adm. Anderson

SECRET

Mr Wallace
Executive Registry
70-3916/3

9 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:



- DIA
NSA

SUBJECT:

CIA Participation in COINS

1. The attached memorandum, which reached me this morning, came as no surprise. It has been evident for some time that all of the efforts in the IHC structure and by the COINS management group to find a valid CIA requirement for COINS have produced very little. Also, I am convinced that the internal CIA effort in this direction was thorough and I feel that this decision is probably the correct one.

2. John Bross has asked me to discuss this CIA memorandum with you three gentlemen in order that he may advise the DCI of the impact, if any, on the COINS experiment. Following this the DCI will advise DIRNSA of the course which he believes CIA and the community should take regarding COINS.

3. If convenient, could we meet in my office following the IHC meeting on 18 November. I will try to adjourn the IHC meeting before 1130.



cc:



CIA

attach.

NIPE:RT:eh
Distribution:



IHC w/att ✓
NIPE:RT file w/att
NIPE:RT chrono w/o att

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

Executive Registry
70-376/2

6 NOV 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Programs Evaluation

John:

In the DCI's letter to DIRNSA of 5 August 1970 concerning COINS, he stated that CIA was undertaking a concerted effort to sort out its Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) posture. The problem has now been studied exhaustively. The examination included not only a study of the security issues which have inhibited full participation, but also the utility of COINS to CIA in comparison with the DoD requirement to link computers and files together.

We understand the need for DoD components to rapidly exchange and access data, such as order-of-battle and other files which they have put in COINS. CIA has benefited from DoD file-building efforts in this area, but our needs are largely satisfied by getting published and magnetic tape copies of the DoD product. We concluded, therefore, that the benefits to CIA from participation in a network of computers are disproportionately low when measured against the manpower and machine costs involved.

We have decided that CIA will continue participation in COINS by providing and maintaining copies of desired machine files either now in existence or subsequently created for regular operational use in the Agency. CIA Headquarters will retain a capability to access COINS files located externally by linking a few terminals directly to the DoD network, as the State Department and NPIC do now.

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DECLASSIFICATION

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NPIC appears to have some need for COINS data and for such network experimentation because of their national intelligence data base responsibility in the imagery world. They will continue their current level of participation; hopefully the TK/H security issue can be resolved so that data available at NPIC can be more readily available to Community users through COINS.



L. K. White

25X1

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